

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-01 ACDA-12
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02
DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /159 W
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R 131314Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4231
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 524

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS NS BR
SUBJ: SURINAM-BRAZIL FISHING TALKS

REF: PARAMARIBO 451

1. APRIL 10 DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBOFF, AGRCIULUTURE
DIRECTOR LIONARONS, WHO HEADED SURINAM DELEGATION WHICH
TRAVELED TO BRASILIA IN MID-MARCH FOR FISHING TALKS WITH
BRAZIL, PAINTED A SOMEWHAT LESS ROSY PICTURE OF BRAZILIAN
DESIRES TO COOPERATE WITH SURINAM IN REACHING AN AGREEMENT
TO PROVIDE FOR ACCESS TO BRAZILIAN WATERS (BY THE SUGAN
VESSELS OWNED BY THE SURINAM GOVERNMENT AND THE LOCAL
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BASTLE AND COOKE SUBSIDCARY SAIL) THAN HAD BEEN PORTRAYED
BY DELEGATION'S LEGAL ADVISER AND REPORTED IN REFTEL.
LIONARONS SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE SURINAM DELEGATION
DID NOT "EXACTLY BREAK OFF THE NEGOTIATIONS." THE
BRAZILIAN PROPOSAL WAS TROUBLESOME AND HE HAD THOUGHT
FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER ARRON WERE
NECESSARY.

2. POLICY-WISE, LIONARONS INSISTED, THE BRAZILIANS ARE STICKING TO THEIR GENERALLY KNOWN APPROACH REQUIRING JOINT VENTURES, ALTHOUGH HE ADDED THAT AT LEAST INITIALLY THIS WOULD ONLY BE SOMETHING ON PAPER. IN PRACTICE, THE SURINAM VESSELS (19, NOT INCLUDING THE ONE SEIZED BY GUYANA IN SEPTEMBER 1977 AND STILL IN GUYANESE HANDS) WOULD FISH UNDER A LICENSING ARRANGEMENT WITH CASTLE AND COOKE RETURNING THEIR SHRIMP CATCHES TO SURINAM FOR PROCESSING. APPARENTLY THERE WOULD BE NO EQUITY INVESTMENT FOR THE TIME BEING ON THE PART OF THE GOS AND DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE WORKED OUT BY THE FISHING INDUSTRY ITSELF. NONETHELESS, SAID LIONARONS, EVENTUALLY THE BRAZILIANS WOULD PRESS FOR REAL JOINT VENTURES COMPLETING THE PROCESS THEY BEGAN SOME YEARS AGO BY UNILATERALLY IMPLEMENTING A 200-MILE ZONE.

3. LIONARONS COULD NOT PREDICT WHETHER OR NOT THE GOS WOULD EVENTUALLY BE ABLE TO ACCEPT BRAZILIAN TERMS OR NEGOTIATE MORE ACCEPTABLE ONES, ALTHOUGH HE DID SAY BRAZILIAN PROPOSAL IS CURRENTLY BEING STUDIED WITH A VIEW TOWARD GOING BACK TO THEM WITH NEW SUGGESTIONS. WHAT DOES SEEM CLEAR IS THAT THE BRAZILIANS AND THE SURINAMERS ARE NOT QUITE AS CLOSE TO A FISHING AGREEMENT AS PREVIOUS INFORMATION MIGHT HAVE INDICATED.
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